

I oppose HB 5974. However, I do empathize with people whose vote is in the minority and their vote is not counted or their concerns unaddressed. For example, the house majority holds 54% of the seats yet the House Elections Committee takes 67%. That certainly doesn't reflect the interests of the minority.

I note that the Elections Committee advances HB 5974 – conceivably so minority votes count. By way of comparison, during the 2012 86th district election for state representative, 13,021 people voted in the minority. That was 30% of the vote. In the current session, 106 bills or resolutions were referred to the Elections Committee. Bills sponsored by a majority party member had a 62% chance of a hearing while a minority party member's chance was 2%. The concern for minority interests is not obvious.

I'm also troubled with the speed this bill is moving. Given the average time of 53 days for a bill to get a first hearing in the Elections Committee, it seems the five days since its introduction gives lawmakers insufficient time to examine it.

The proposed bill doesn't allot electoral votes in the same proportion as people vote and doesn't make provision for a third party candidate. That's self-serving for the two major parties.

Finally, although the presidential vote in Michigan has gone to a Democrat in the past several elections, there was a time when the vote went to a Republican. At some point in the future, it'll happen again. I wonder when voters do shift to Republican candidates, will the legislature change the law so all the electoral votes go the popular winner?

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Number of Bills Referred to the Elections Committee 2013-2014		
	Republican Sponsored	Democrat Sponsored
Hearing Held	29 (27.3%)	1 (0.9%)
No Hearing	18 (16.9%)	58 (54.7%)

Phil Lombard
830 W Drayton Ave
Ferndale MI 48220